



THE CITY OF REDMOND
FINANCE AND INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

V.1

MEMO TO: Redmond City Council

FROM: Rosemarie Ives, Mayor

DATE: January 4, 2005

SUBJECT: CITY OF REDMOND 2005 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION:

By motion, adopt the attached 2005 State Legislative Agenda.

II. DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON:

Bonnie Mattson, City Clerk 425-556-2190

III. DESCRIPTION:

In the past, the Council has adopted a legislative agenda containing two parts, an "A" list and a "B" list. The A list would be actively pursued by the Council and staff during the current legislative session and the "B" list would be monitored closely by staff during the session and Councilmembers would be notified when the need to testify arose.

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

The Council could choose to modify the "A" and "B" lists, by adding, deleting or rewording language.

V. TIME CONSTRAINTS:

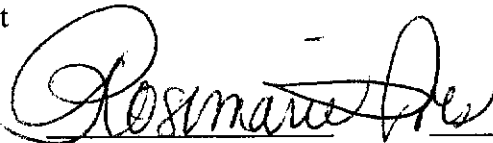
The State Legislature convenes on Monday, January 10, 2005.

VI. ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: 2005 State Legislative Agenda (the "A" list)

Attachment B: the "B" list

Approved for Council agenda:


Rosemarie Ives, Mayor

12/17/04
Date



THE CITY OF REDMOND
FINANCE AND INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**CITY OF REDMOND
2005 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

The City of Redmond appeals to the State Legislature to:

Annexation

- Provide additional methods and tools to facilitate the annexation of urbanized areas, including the authority to establish annexation capital facilities districts and special purpose taxing authority such as transition utility taxing.
- Enact a technical fix to the petition method whereby signatures of 50 percent of those voting in the last general election, not 50 percent of registered voters, are required for passage of an annexation proposal.

Transportation

- Enact a statewide gas tax with a direct distribution to local governments and a portion directed to congested corridors, specifically:
 Provide funding to cities and counties to be used for preservation, maintenance and local transportation infrastructure, including transit.
 Provide funding for regional Eastside priority corridors: SR 520 bridge replacement, I 405, and additional HOV lanes on I-90, which connect urban growth centers and industrial manufacturing centers.
- Provide additional transportation funding options for local governments.
- Provide the tools and funding necessary to allow for flexible user fees, including tolls on state highways and tolls for HOT lanes
- Provide new funding for multi-modal transportation, including expanded Commute Trip Reduction and Transportation Demand Management Programs, and safe routes to school, bicycle, and pedestrian investments.

Sales Tax Streamlining

Redmond supports the goals of the Sales Tax Streamlining project, but urges the Legislature to not support legislation to streamline the state sales and use taxes until the federal government takes further action regarding the Internet sales tax moratorium and the state adopts mitigation measures that ensure cities are not adversely impacted.

Courts

Support legislation that preserves the option for cities to contract for municipal court services.

Condo Liability

Enact legislation that clarifies condominium liability issues and balances protection for consumers and predictability for developers, thereby providing a wider range of housing choices.

Tort Reform

Amend current statutes to exempt cities from joint and several liability and provide immunity to cities for probation liability, disclosure of employment information, and volunteer liability.

Public Records

Support the decision in the Hangartner case and oppose changes to the Public Disclosure Act.

Driving While License Suspended

Enact legislation that creates a hearings process within the Department of Licensing that will allow cities and counties to resume the prosecution of DWLS Third Degree cases.

Concurrency Exemptions

Enact legislation that allows local flexibility to use concurrency to implement GMA goals.

Air Pollution

Support the adoption of California vehicle emission standards.

Homestead Property Tax Exemption

Support legislation providing for a property tax homestead exemption for owner-occupied principal residences to help offset the tax impact of rising property values.

Redmond also supports these actions and will monitor Legislative activity on these issues:

Public Health

Support a ban on smoking in public places such as restaurants, bars, taverns, bingo halls and bowling alleys.

Land Use/Environment

- Support legislation preserving the intent and effect of the GMA and Growth Management Hearing Boards
- Support redevelopment opportunity funding as long as it is consistent with GMA principles.
- Support legislation requiring all state agencies to consult with local governments about the siting, permitting or licensing of facilities in their jurisdictions.
- Support legislation clarifying that cities may exercise their planning and zoning powers with respect to gambling activities.
- Support legislation that strengthens the Growth Management Act's goals pertaining to parks and recreation to ensure equal and balanced treatment with other important goals of the Act.
- Support legislation providing funding assistance to local governments as they respond to Endangered Species Act listings and update their shoreline master programs.

Public Safety

- Support state operation of a system that provides 24-hour monitoring of sexual and special needs offenders, verification of warrants, and notification to cities for community protection and crime prevention. Support the statewide application of the HITS/SMART system, including a network of 24-hour duty officers who can immediately issue a detainer for a person who is under the Department of Corrections supervision and is in violation of his/her supervisory conditions.
- Support legislation using closed circuit TV cameras to enforce 'red light' and speeding traffic violations.

Utility Relocation

Support current legislation requiring utilities to bear the cost of relocating their facilities in the public rights-of-way

General

- Support balancing employee, management and community interests when considering legislation affecting public employee/employer relations, including the public employee labor relations act, pension reform and police and fire civil service.
- Support legislation providing adequate funding of the 2005 Capital Funding Plan for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and previously approved but unfunded WWRC projects.
- Support legislation funding for local governments to establish and expand services to divert youth from the juvenile justice system.
- Support legislation enabling cities to be actively involved in state decisions regarding management of human services programs handed down by the federal government.
- Redmond opposes county efforts to impose a utility tax on residents in incorporated areas.
- Support legislation allowing Lake Washington Technical College to pilot the offering of a bachelor's degree in applied technology.

Fiscal Stability for Cities

- Protect local taxing authority and avoid actions that may erode city revenues.
- Require city participation in Legislative discussions that affect the cities' revenue options and revenue amounts.
- Modify property tax legislation to substitute the local 'cost of living' index for the national 'implicit price deflator.'